

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5137

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

CINCPAC

CINCUSNAVEUR

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14113

BEIRUT ALSO PASS BAGHDAD

CINCPAC, CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PFOR, UR, XB, XO

SUBJECT: PRAVDA COMMENTATOR WORRIES ABOUT EXTENSION OF U.S.
BASE SYSTEM TO GULF

1. IN OCTOBER 2 COMMENTARY ENTITLED "PENTAGON SCHEMES"
ALEKSANDR FILIPPOV, REGULAR POLITICAL OBSERVER
WRITES FREQUENTLY ON ASIAN TOPICS, STRIKES A POSTURE
OF CONCERN ABOUT U.S. BASING PROSPECTS IN PERSIAN
GULF AND INDIAN OCEAN.

2. HE BEGINS BY CITING "FOREIGN PRESS" REPORTS THAT
THE PENTAGON IS CONTINUING "SEARCH FOR A PIECE OF
LAND FOR PLACEMENT OF A POWERFUL AIR AND SEA
MILITARY BASE OF STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE" IN GULF
AREA, AND THAT THE TERRITORY OF THE RA'S AL-KHAYMAH
EMIRATE (NEAR DUBAI) PRESENTLY CONSTITUTES "THE NEXT
VARIANT."

3. AFTER NOTING RECENT REPORTS IN IRAQI AS-SAURA
AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAGAZINE ABOUT U.S. ARMS SHIPMENTS
TO GULF, FILIPPOV TURNS TO
"POLITICAL OBSERVERS" FOR A STATEMENT THAT THE
PERSIAN GULF BASE BEING SOUGHT IS "TO BECOME THE
EXTREME WESTERN LINK OF THE INDIAN OCEAN-PACIFIC
BASE SYSTEM CREATED BY THE PENTAGON," WHOSE EXISTING
EASTERN PORTION RUNS THROUGH THE PHILIPPINES AND THE
TAIWAN STRAITS TO THE SEA OF JAPAN. AND, FILIPPOV
HAS "MILITARY OBSERVERS" SAY, "A CENTRAL, KEY POSITION"
IN THE SYSTEM BELONGS TO THE ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA,
"WHERE THE INDIAN OCEAN TRADE ROUTES INTERSECT."

4. HOWEVER, FILIPPOV READS IN "THE AMERICAN PRESS,"
THE SECURITY OF THE TRADE ROUTE IS NOT THE ONLY GOAL:
"THE LINE OF MILITARY BASES DISTRIBUTED FOR THE MOST
PART ALONG THE PATH OF OIL TANKERS FROM THE PERSIAN
GULF EASTWARD IS INTENDED NOT ONLY TO PERMIT THE
ESCORT OF OIL SUPPLIES 'IN CASE OF EXTRAORDINARY
CIRCUMSTANCES' BUT ALSO TO MAINTAIN A PERMANENT
THREAT OVER THIS EXTENSIVE PART OF THE GLOBE, TO
EXERT PRESSURE ON THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLICIES
OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF AFRICA AND ASIA."
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5. NEVERTHELESS, FILIPPOV'S CONCLUSION IS RELATIVELY
MILD: U.S. ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH CONTROL OF THE
PERSIAN GULF AND "OTHER INDIAN OCEAN POINTS" (MERELY)
CREATE "NEW COMPLICATING FACTORS" FOR WORLD SECURITY AND
"CONTRADICT" THE GENERAL TENDENCY TOWARD RELAXATION
OF TENSIONS. THE CODA APPROVINGLY MENTIONS THE
"MANY" COUNTRIES OF ASIA AND AFRICA WHOSE GOAL IS

TO CONSOLIDATE PEACE IN THIS REGION.

6. COMMENT. THE SOVIETS HAVE WELCOMED ANY SIGNS THAT THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN ASIA MAY BE WEAKENED, APPLAUDING THAI AND PHILIPPINES MOVES TO REVISE BASE AGREEMENTS AND THE RECENT DECISION TO DISBAND SEATO. BUT THIS APPLAUSE IS TEMPERED BY MOSCOW'S TRADITIONAL VISION OF A RING OF BASES AROUND THE WHOLE SOVIET SOUTHERN BORDERLAND AND THE ASIAN PERIPHERY--THE PICTURE WHICH FILIPPOV PAINTS. FILIPPOV IS ALSO CAUTIOUS, HOWEVER: HE DOES NOT MENTION BAHRAIN AND U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE THERE (COMIDEASTFOR) -- PERHAPS BECAUSE THAT QUESTION MAY SEEM TO BE GOING WELL FROM THE SOVIET STANDPOINT, BUT A CURIOUS OMISSION NONETHELESS IN THIS CONTEXT -- NOR DOES HE MENTION THE POSSIBILITY OF A PERSIAN GULF SECURITY ARRANGEMENT. END COMMENT.

STOESSEL

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